

What is Claimed is:

1. An aqueous foamable, antimicrobial liquid cleansing formulation that is dispensed as a foam comprising:

an antimicrobial agent having a phenol moiety; and

5 a foam boosting surfactant wherein the viscosity of the formulation is about 10 centipoise at 24° C.

2. The formulation of claim 1 wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of triclosan and para-chlorometa-xlenol.

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3. The formulation of claim 1 wherein the foam boosting surfactant is a C₈ – C₁₈ acylisethionate.

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4. The formulation of claim 3 wherein the foam boosting surfactant is ammonium cocoyl isethionate.

5. The formulation of claim 1 wherein the foam boosting surfactant is between about 5% by weight and about 20% by weight of the formulation.

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6. The formulation of claim 5 wherein the foam boosting surfactant is a C₈ – C₁₈ acylisethionate.

7. The formulation of claim 6 wherein the foam boosting surfactant is ammonium cocoyl isethionate.

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8. An aqueous, antimicrobial formulation to be dispensed from a foam forming device comprising:

an antimicrobial agent having a phenol moiety; and

a foam boosting surfactant wherein the viscosity of the formulation is low.

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9. The formulation of claim 8 wherein the viscosity of the formulation is less than about 20 centipoise at 24° C.

10. An aqueous, antimicrobial formulation to be dispensed from a foam forming device comprising:

- an antimicrobial agent having a phenol moiety;
- 5 a foam boosting anionic surfactant;
- an anionic surfactant wherein the antimicrobial agent is solubilized;
- a foam building amphoteric surfactant;
- a nonionic surfactant; and
- a non-aqueous solvent wherein the viscosity of the formulation is low.

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11. The formulation of claim 10 wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of triclosan and para-chlorometa-xlenol.

12. The formulation of claim 10 wherein the foam boosting amphoteric surfactant is a C₈ – C₁₈ acylisethionate.

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13. The formulation of claim 12 wherein the foam boosting surfactant is ammonium cocoyl isethionate.

14. The formulation of claim 10 wherein the foam boosting surfactant is between about 5% by weight and about 20% by weight of the formulation.

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15. The formulation of claim 14 wherein the foam boosting surfactant is a C₈ – C₁₈ acylisethionate.

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16. The formulation of claim 15 wherein the foam boosting surfactant is ammonium cocoyl isethionate.

17. The formulation of claim 10 wherein the anionic surfactant is between 2% by weight and 12% by weight of the formulation.

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18. The formulation of claim 17 wherein the anionic surfactant is selected from the group consisting of sulfated alkyl phenol ethoxylates, alkyl-aryl sulfonates, aliphatic sulfonates, and aromatic sulfonates.

5 19. The formulation of claim 10 wherein the foam building surfactant is between 2% by weight and 12% by weight of the formulation.

20. The formulation of claim 19 wherein the foam building surfactant is selected from the group consisting of ammonium fatty sulfo succinates, alkanolamides, and amine oxides.

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21. The formulation of claim 10 wherein the nonionic surfactant is between 1% by weight and 6% by weight of the formulation.

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22. The formulation of claim 21 wherein the nonionic surfactant is selected from a group consisting of oxypropylene and oxyethylene condensates having a molecular weight range between 1000 and 15,000 alkylphenol ethoxylates and primary alcohol ethoxylates.

23. The formulation of claim 10 wherein the non-aqueous solvent is between 1% by weight and 8% by weight of the formulation.

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24. The formulation of claim 23 wherein the non-aqueous solvent is selected from a group consisting of glycols, alcohols, ethyl acetate, acetone, and triacetin.

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25. The formulation of claim 10 wherein the viscosity of the formulation is less than about 20 centipoise at 24° C.

26. The formulation of claim 25 wherein the viscosity of the formulation is about 10 centipoise at 24° C.

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27. A method to foam a solution to be used for hand cleansing comprising the steps:

providing an aqueous solution comprising an antimicrobial agent having a phenol moiety; and a foam boosting surfactant wherein the viscosity of the formulation is about 10 centipoise at 24° C; and

dispensing the solution from a foam-generating dispenser.

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28. The method of claim 27 wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of triclosan and para-chlorometa-xlenol.

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29. The method of claim 27 wherein the foam boosting surfactant is a C₈ – C₁₈ acylisethionate.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein the foam boosting surfactant is ammonium cocoyl isethionate.

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31. The method of claim 27 wherein the foam boosting surfactant is between about 5% by weight and about 20% by weight of the formulation.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein the foam boosting surfactant is a C₈ – C₁₈ acylisethionate.

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33. The method of claim 32 wherein the foam boosting surfactant is ammonium cocoyl isethionate.